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"This and much more actually happened in Ireland on the passing of the Union. If the legitimate means of amusement, or the honest means of exercising intellectual ability, be violated, nature in attempting to compensate its loss will adopt vicious or inglorious substitutes. Public interest was gone, and public men had disappeared also. Thus in France, where politics were foreign to the people, the wits of that country, instead of contending on some subject of national importance, used to dispute whether this or that were the prettier rondeau, or whether Benserade or Voiture wrote the prettier sonnet. To this state of emptiness and vice the friends of the doctrine of libel, and the enemies of a free press would depress the genius and learning of the British nation. For, most certainly, whatever impairs the liberty of the press tends to produce these despicable effects. Lop a vigorous tree, and it will push forth many twigs round its mutilated bole: strike the same tree near the earth, and the unextinguished sap of life flowing through its roots, but deprived of its native course, will exude in things uncouth, impure, and pernicious."

The aim in giving extracts, is not to satiate the reader, but to produce a disposition to read the book at large. But in extracting, many parts are so excellent, it is difficult to keep within bounds. We fear we have exceeded. One more extract from the next chapter, on Ecclesiastical Law, shall conclude.

"From the liberty of the press and libel, that hybridous monster born of tyranny and the civil law, I proceed to make a few remarks on the ecclesiastical law of this country. Whatever I have said of the pernicious and indefinite state of the constitution, of the crown, of the lords and commons, of privilege, of libel, is collected and aggravated in the ecclesiastical law. The reasons are obvious: it was originally an encroachment on the native law of this land, and it proceeded by artifice, and insinuation, and force, to make a superstition and its ministers paramount both to the king and people. Consider what must be the variable nature of that law, when the primary object of its concern, *faith*, has, if I recollect rightly, thirty-six varieties of meaning marked in St. Hierom's Bible.

"The ecclesiastical law is thus characterized by Bishop Warburton, in a letter to Bishop Hurd, dated 1775: 'Could any

thing be more absurd, than when the yoke of Rome was thrown off, they should govern the new church erected in opposition to it, by the laws of the old? The pretence was, that this was only by way of interim, till a body of ecclesiastical laws could be formed. But whoever considers, that the canon laws proceeded from, and had perpetual reference to, an absolute monarch, and were formed upon the genius, and did acknowledge the authority of the civil laws, the issue of civil despotism; I say, whoever considers this, will be inclined to think, that the crown contrived this interim of the use of the canon law for the extension of the prerogative.' This was written by one bishop, and approved by another: on their authority, and the statement is indisputable, the ecclesiastical law of reformed England is Catholic, corrupt, and tends to make the Prince despotic."

If we had room, we could lengthen the article by some judicious extracts, which exhibit the dangers of Ecclesiastical power, whether exerted by a Portuguese Inquisition, an English Bishop's court, or the no less dangerous powers of intolerance assumed by a party styling itself Evangelical, who, with its society for the suppression of vice, and other affiliated societies, if they can insinuate themselves into the possession of power, would establish an authority, as intolerant and as hostile to free discussion, and the progress of reason, as ever disgraced the darkest ages of the world.

K.

Just Published,

Analytical Review of a Pamphlet lately published by a Person styling himself the Rev. ROBERT BLACK, D.D. called, "Substance of Two Speeches, and Abstract of Proceedings relative to the Rev. Dr. DICKSON." Tending to show, that the said Speech-Writer hath garbled, distorted, and mis-stated almost every Passage, which he hath extracted from the Book called "DICKSON'S NARRATIVE." And that he himself is the Person "always wrong in matters of fact;" and that it is his own "pen which always disfigures every thing it touches."—By an Elder.

"My vouch against you, and my Elder's part
Will to your accusation overweigh,
That you will stifle in your own report,
And smell of Calumny."

SHAKESPEARE.